

*Serving the
community,
families, schools,
students,
historians and
other researchers*

KHS STRATEGIC PLAN 2013–18

Following on from when the Society's members met in March last year for the Vision 2015 Workshop, the Society's Management Committee asked me as President to formulate a five year Strategic Plan for the Kew Historical Society based on the suggestions that members put forward at that meeting.

Together with the ideas that the members put forward at the meeting in March, I started to build on the vision that the founding fathers of the Society had all those years ago.

The Society was founded in 1958 by Kew Councillor William (Bill) Dickinson, MBE, JP who was twice Mayor of Kew, first of all from 1946 to 1947 and later from 1960 to 1961. Between these terms he gave many years of service to the City of Kew. Councillor Dickinson was also President of the Kew Civic Movement.

It was at a meeting, under the auspices of the Kew Civic Movement, on Thursday 16 September 1958, that he suggested that it would be desirable to form, before the City celebrated its Centenary in 1960, a historical society for Kew.

For many years after, the Kew Historical Society met in his house in Edgevale Road. Later the meetings moved to the meeting room at the Civic Centre.

There have been fourteen other Presidents of the Kew Historical Society since Councillor Dickinson. All of those past presidents continued the Society's mission to stimulate the community's interest in the economic, social, cultural and environmental history and heritage of Kew and its environs.

Based on their contributions to the Society over the past 50 years, I concluded that all shared these three values:

- Collaboration – working with many individuals and organisations to realise the Society's mission.
- Inclusivity – embracing multiple cultures and viewpoints.
- Innovation – consideration of new ways to collect, care for, share and interpret the Society's collections.

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COLLECTIONS

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HISTORIES

Researchers of the Society have provided articles on the Streets of Kew, the Skinny Dog Hotel, Glastonbury and Kewriosity



Five new Activity Groups will take measures to increase the perceived value of membership of the Society

With a foundation based on fifty years of past vision behind me, it was an honour to work with members of the Management Committee to fine tune the Strategic Plan for the next five years.

The Plan ultimately received the unanimous endorsement of the Management Committee.

The aims of the Kew Historical Society Strategic Plan 2013–18 are:

1. To provide a place where printed materials, photographs, publications and other objects which have significance to the history and heritage of Kew and its environs can be discovered, collected, studied, interpreted, preserved and displayed.
2. To encourage the study, collection, preservation and exhibition of both historical and significant contemporary objects pertaining to Kew and its environs.
3. To inform and educate the public of our economic, social, cultural and environmental history and heritage through activities such as research, publications, talks, workshops and displays.
4. To cooperate with the community and like organisations in activities which promote history and/or heritage to our mutual benefit.
5. To support individuals and groups seeking to preserve historic buildings, traditions and landscapes.

The Society draws its strength from its members and is committed to providing activities, resources and programs to meet their needs and expectations. To address this goal the Society has formed five Activity Groups each lead by a member of the Management Committee.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2012–2013

President Alex Wilson OAM

Vice President/s Dione McIntyre / Philip Slobom

Secretary Judith Vimpani

Treasurer Margaret Robinson

Archivist Dorothy Benyei

Assistant Secretary Robert Baker

Committee members Don Garden / Rosemary Smart OAM

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The Kew Historical Society holds monthly meetings in the Phyllis Hore Room at the rear of the Kew Library. Meetings are held at 8:00PM on the second Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise announced. Refreshments are provided. Meetings are open to members and non-members.

KEW COURT HOUSE

Members of the Society played a key role in the preservation and restoration of the Court House. A History Centre at the Court House, 188 High Street, Kew is staffed by members on Tuesdays 10:00AM–4:00PM, Thursdays 1:00PM–4:00PM and Saturdays 10:00AM–1:00PM. At the Centre you can ask questions about Kew's history and heritage and view displays of some of the Society's collection.

NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is published quarterly and is distributed to all members. Some additional copies are made available to the community. If you would like a copy of a particular issue, please contact the Assistant Secretary at info@kewhistory.com.au

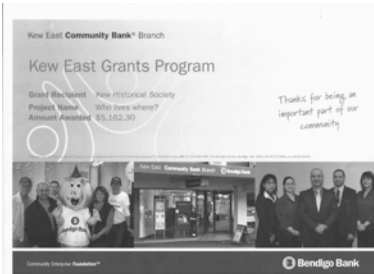
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**Kew Historical Society Inc.
Inc. No. A0010789W
ABN 97 824 890 237
PO Box 175 Kew VIC 3101**

SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

BENDIGO BANK COMMUNITY GRANT 2013

The Society is proud to announce that it is the recipient of a grant from the Bendigo Bank for our 'Who lives where' project to be part of our activities at the Court House. The grant is to purchase searchable disks of the Sands & McDougall directories from 1857 to 1930 and a new audio/visual laptop. The Sands & McDougall directories list every householder alphabetically and by street, so are a wealth of information on our ancestors, on the streets and sub-divisions of Kew.



2013 KEW COMMUNITY FESTIVAL 16-24 March 2013

Exhibition:

Visit the Society's free display 'Dancing in Kew' at the Kew History Centre, Kew Court House, 188 High Street, Kew 12:00-4:00PM, 16 to 24 March 2013 (except Monday 18 March).

Tours:

Coach tour of historic sites in Kew 1:45PM
Sunday 24 March.

Tour of Boroondara Cemetery 2:00PM Sunday 24 March.

Both these events are free, but places are limited. Prior bookings are essential.

Bookings: Dorothy Benyei
Phone - 9853 8758

Look out for the lighting of the Kew Court House from 8:00PM until midnight each night of the Festival.

PAST MEETINGS

The Society holds monthly meetings in the Phyllis Hore Room at the rear of the Kew Library in Cotham Road. Meetings are held at 8:00PM on the second Wednesday of the month unless otherwise announced.

CHRISTMAS PARTY 12 December 2012

The Annual Christmas Party was very successfully held in The Phyllis Hore Room again at the end of 2012, and the many members who were able to attend had a most enjoyable time. Highlights of the evening included a bagpipe solo by James Atcheson and Phillip Slobom's annual trivia quiz. Competition between tables to see who could win the quiz was fierce.

POST OFFICE CLOCKS OF VICTORIA Mr. Vivian Kenney 14 February 2013

Mr. Vivian Kenney, President of the Australian Antiquarian Horological Society (Victorian Branch) stepped in at short notice for the February meeting when the scheduled speaker, Ms. Suzanne McWha was unable to attend due to illness. (Suzanne has agreed to deliver her talk at a later date.)

Vivian entertained those present with a 'Tour of GPO clocks of Victoria' from Ararat to Yarrowonga. Fully illustrated with early photos, facts and more recent photos, it was interesting to see the variety of architectural styles of the buildings housing the clocks.

Our thanks go to Vivian and to Adele Fernando at Camberwell Historical Society who suggested Vivian as a speaker.



Judith gives our thanks for the Kew East Grant

FUTURE MEETINGS

THE 2013 McINTYRE LECTURE Emeritus Professor Graeme Davison

"All that is essential to happiness: the Villa Ideal and the first Australian suburbs"

This lecture surveys the emergence of Australia's first suburbs in the 1830s and 40s and shows how English ideas were applied to the Australian environment.

7:30 for 8:00 PM

The Kew Court House,
188 High Street, Kew,
Wednesday 20th March 2013,
7:30 for 8:00PM.

OTHER SOCIETIES

VAFHO

Victorian Association of Family History Organisations Inc.
Eighth Conference, 4-5 May 2013, Ballarat
Conference Program at <http://vipsinc.wordpress.com>
Ph. (03) 4308 0454
Email: ballaratstar@gmail.com

STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Family history research with maps
Discover how you can use maps to enrich your family research.
2 May 2013, 2:00-3:00PM.

Newsworthy workshop

Learn how to access the Library's extensive archive of current and historical newspapers
16 April 2013, 10:15-12:15

Finding families: genealogy workshop

Learn family history skills in the genealogy centre.
24 April 2013, 10:15-12:30PM
22 May 2013, 10:15-12:30PM.

Bookings can be made online at the State Library website.

KHS Activity Groups

(Continued from Page 2)

Each of the Activity Groups will take measures to increase the perceived value of membership of the Society and develop processes to ensure that planned quality assurance standards are achieved.

To attain these standards the Activity Groups will regularly survey you and act upon the results.

The Society is a respected, prestigious organisation and meeting your expectations is of paramount importance to it.

The five Activity Groups are:

COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY GROUP

Led by Robert Baker and supported by our Archivist Dorothy Benyei, Assoc Prof Don Garden (FFAH, FRHSV), Dione McIntyre, and Margaret Robinson, the Group will ensure that the Society's collections are documented, protected and made available for study in accordance with the Management Committee's policies. Particular attention will be given to cataloguing electronically and converting manuals, documents and photographs into digital format.

PROMOTIONS & PUBLICITY ACTIVITY GROUP

Led by Judith Vimpani, and supported by Robert Baker, Dionne McIntyre and Alex Wilson, the Group will undertake activities designed to promote and publicise the work and activities of the Society to the wider community. This will include working with community organisations to have thematic, shared exhibitions on a regular basis at the Kew History Centre, constructing innovative and creative exhibitions that appeal to a wider cross section of the community including presenting programs and talks about the Society's exhibitions and working toward, in the near future, the introduction of computer-generated resources at the Kew History Centre.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY GROUP

Led by Dorothy Benyei and Judith Vimpani, the Group will develop meetings with audience-oriented speakers. It will develop a diversified range of social programs and activities. These will include bus tours, walks, visits to other historical societies, theatre outings, art gallery tours, and dining out evenings and of course our Christmas party. The Social Activity Group will be responsible for attracting volunteers to operate equipment at the Kew History Centre at the Court House. They will also be responsible for organising volunteers to assist with the quarterly book sales and to assist with the catering at various functions throughout the year. This group is looking for members to assist.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS ACTIVITY GROUP

Led by Vice President Dione McIntyre and supported by Assoc Prof Don Garden, Alex Wilson, Robert Baker, Kathleen Gervasoni, Kerry Fairbank, Rae Nicholls, Andrew Frost, Margaret Robinson and Dorothy Benyei, the Group will contribute articles to the newsletter for publication on a regular basis, compile video histories and oral histories using accepted oral history protocols. The Group will engage in research into the history of Kew and its environs, allowing members to set their own challenges and to extend the depth of understanding of their respective subject matters.

FINANCE, SECRETARIAL & GOVERNANCE ACTIVITY GROUP

Led by Alex Wilson and supported by Judith Vimpani and Margaret Robinson, the Group will be responsible for the day-to-day administrative operations of the Society.

In conclusion

Adoption of the 2018 Strategic Plan has enabled your Society to position itself in respect to the key reforms in the new Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012, which commenced operation on 1 December 2012.

Many of you indicated at the Vision 2015 Workshop, held in March last year, your desire to participate in assisting the Society to move forward into the second decade of the 21st Century. Give either myself, or Judith Vimpani a call to discuss how you can help. You can contact me on 9859 6177, or you can ring Judith on 0425 737 704.

Alex Wilson OAM



One of the wooden plaques from the staircase at Mooroolbreek. (See p.5)
University of Melbourne

KHS COLLECTIONS GROUP

The Collections Management Activity Group met in the main archive at its February meeting for a tour of the main collection, led by the vice-president of the Society, Dione McIntyre, and the Archivist, Dorothy Benyei.

The collection has been built up over time since the foundation of the Society in 1958. Part of the purpose of the tour was not so much to identify individual items for members of the group but to allow them to understand the extent and nature of the items and objects in the collection from a storage, conservation and cataloguing perspective.

For some time now, Dorothy, Dione and Margaret Robinson, the Treasurer of the Society have been undertaking a conservation check and stock take of the textiles in the collection. This was where the tour began and members were soon made aware of the significant numbers of garments, hats, gloves etc held by the Society. These range from nineteenth century examples to more recent designer clothing.

Over time, successive archivists have created files on aspects of Kew's history. These range from quite small files to more substantial ones. These have all been listed and sorted and the task ahead during the year is to describe the contents of these.

On Page 11 of this newsletter, Alex Wilson has reworked an article from *Kewriosity*. While there is a complete set of these in the main archive they have not yet been indexed. This also applies to past newsletters.

The Society has over many years mounted displays to promote the history and heritage of Kew. A complicating factor is that these are also stored in the main archive,

making the identification of what is truly significant more of a challenge to the members of the Group when undertaking the stocktake this year and in cataloguing the collection.

The Society has in its collection many original photographs of Kew. A number of these have been described in detail by Margaret, and by Judith Vimpani, the Society's Secretary. I am now beginning a simpler task, which is to make a list in a spreadsheet of every photograph in the collection, to which I can add original accession numbers, annotations by previous cataloguers, and new descriptions.

Finally, the Group is aiming to finalise a Collections Policy, which it can submit to the Management Committee of the Society for discussion. The Policy will define what will be collected, how items will be catalogued, priorities for conservation, lending practices etc.

Robert Baker



Clutha, Studley Park Road, Kew

LOST & FOUND

In the last newsletter we asked readers for photographs of Clutha and Mooroolbeek, two long lost mansions in Studley Park. Our call for help was successful.

MOOROOLBEEK – Built in 1884, for Sir Frank Madden, MLA, Mooroolbeek in Carson Street was one of Kew's greatest mansions. Tony Michael, a member of the Society, has sent a number of photos. Among these were five photos of the panels from the stairs mentioned by Dorothy Rogers in her *History of Kew* (p.173). Tony explained that these were sent to him by a contact at Melbourne University where they are now stored. A photo of one of the panels is included on page 4. In addition to the panels, Tony described the massive Madden coat of arms, which is also in storage at the University.

CLUTHA – The home of Kew's first mayor, John Carson, was built in 1856. When it was auctioned in 1939, and subdivided in 1940, it was as if all trace of it had been lost. Descriptions of it are surprisingly rare. In 1875, it was described in *The Argus* as a 'first class family mansion', designed by the architect Leonard Terry. The stuccoed brick house on a huge basement storey was surrounded by a 'wide verandah and balcony, erected on cast iron columns' from which there were commanding views of the bay, shipping, Mount Macedon, and the Dandenong Ranges.

The Society's collection holds more treasures than we had expected, including a tiny photograph of Clutha (above). It has now been catalogued. Hopefully other photos of Clutha will emerge from other quarters in years to come.



Extract, Kew Junction, State Library of Victoria

THE STREETS OF KEW 1880– 1890

ANDREW FROST

Kew in the 1880s was an outer Eastern suburb of Melbourne. The 1880s was a decade of growth for Melbourne, and Kew shared this growth. Kew's population grew from 4,288 in 1881 to 8,462 in 1891, a rise of 97%. Occupied house numbers rose from 565 in 1881 to 1,329 in 1891, a rise of 135%. Such growth required infrastructure to support it: streets, drains, street lighting, transport, gas and water.

Streets and drains were the basic infrastructure problems for Kew in the 1880s. Decent streets and drains were fundamental to the quality of life of the residents. Without drainage, streets became muddy, boggy and sometimes unpassable. Pools and puddles of stagnant water became smelly. The run off water, mixed with human and animal wastes, because there was no sewerage, became a health hazard. Streets and drains then became what were known as 'a nuisance'. Kew suffered from bouts of typhoid fever during the 1880s.

There were three categories of streets dealt with by the Council: 'public streets', for which the Council had full responsibility; 'boundary streets', for which the Council shared responsibility with other municipal councils; and 'private streets', for which the council had no responsibility, unless they became a 'nuisance'. If the latter was the case, the street was 'taken over', or declared a public street, or the landowners were ordered to fix the problem themselves at their own cost. Most streets were private streets and were mostly just tracks.

Private streets were land that had been set aside for access purposes by the owners of adjacent properties. Sometimes, they were established by developers as part of a subdivision. Residents on private streets often asked the Council to take over the streets; to form, channel and perhaps metal them. The street would then become a public street for which the Council was responsible. At other times, the Council ordered the residents of private streets to form and channel them, or to drain the streets themselves, if the street was becoming a nuisance due to animal wastes or raw sewage from houses.

The problem of private streets was a metropolitan-wide problem, with Councils sharing policies and procedures with each other. For instance, in August 1882, the Public Works Committee of the Council expressed concern over the principles to be applied to the takeover of private streets, and all municipalities within five miles of Melbourne were surveyed about their policies concerning the takeover of private streets.

6 After much discussion in 1882 the Council adopted the policy that it would take over private streets if the ratepayers provided the land and if the ratepayers would pay half of the cost of forming, metalling and channelling the streets. This policy stood for the entirety of the decade. Ratepayers, however, often attempted to avoid such costs.

This article focuses on the work of the Kew Borough Council (hereafter referred to as 'the Council'.) in providing formed streets and drains. Sources for this article are the *Minutes of the Kew Borough Council* in the 1880s and one of the local newspapers, the *Boroondara Standard*.

In a further article, I will discuss the battles between ratepayers and the Council in three controversial cases: Derrick Street, Ermington Lane and Mr Maidment's drain.



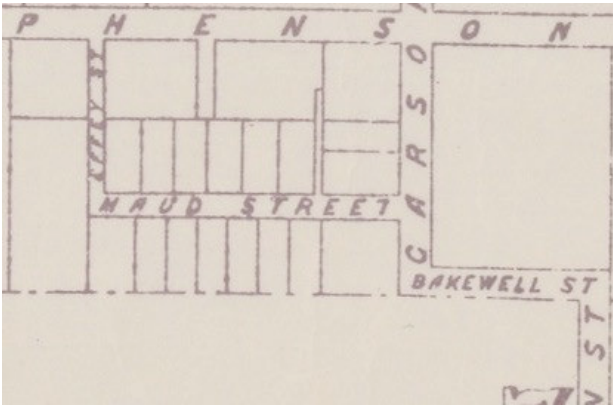
Cr. W. J. Runting
City of Boroondara

Mayors of Kew

1880-81: W. J. Runting
1882-83: H. W. de Mole
1883-85: Francis Barnard
1885-86: Henry Gray
1886-87: E. A. Atkyns
1888-89: H de C Kellett
1889-90: J. M. Campbell

When residents requested the Council to take over and form and drain a private street the Council would inform them of the Council's policy of ratepayers paying half the costs of making the street. Then there would usually be a delay as the cost clearly discouraged the ratepayers from proceeding. Sometimes the delay lasted for years. However, some time later the ratepayers might make a second request, and they would agree to the Council's terms.

For instance, there was a request from residents to take over and make Maud and Effey Streets on 25 July 1882.



Detail, Parish of Boroondara, 1888¹

The Council sent a copy of the resolution of their policy on taking over private streets. Clearly discouraged by cost, nothing was heard of the matter till on 10 June 1884, the ratepayers of the streets asked the Council to take over the streets again. Council asked the Surveyor for a report on the matter and on 24 June 1884, the Council decided to agree to take over the street on the terms that the residents pay for half the costs of making the street and that they convey the land to the Council.

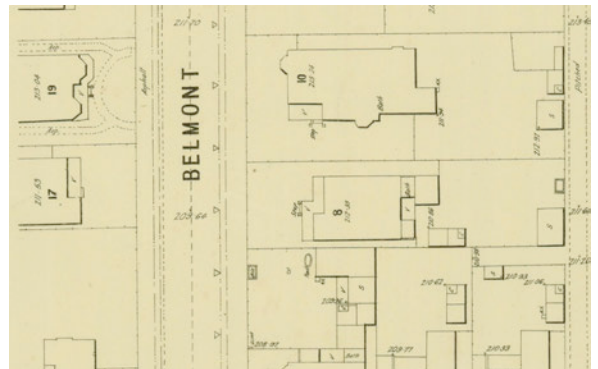
Sometimes the work would be delayed till all the payments were made. Sometimes, where there was some urgency for the work to be done, because of the health problems associated with the state of the street, the work was done first, and the payments were collected later.

In these cases the Council, acting as the responsible authority in its own right, or after 1885, acting as the Local Board of Health, would make an order that ratepayers were to form and drain their private street and pay for it themselves. If the works were not completed, the Board of Health would undertake the work itself and collect payments later. The Local Board of Health was the Council meeting under a different name, and it would meet directly after the normal Council meeting when there was business for the Board to deal with. The Council would provide plans and specifications for the works to be completed, and would give a deadline for completion.

Such compulsory orders for works were sometimes controversial, and considerable time and energy was spent in getting the ratepayers to carry out the ordered works. Sometimes negotiation was needed to persuade the ratepayers to comply with the Order. Legal action was sometimes required. Resistance was based on the refusal to spend money required under the order for works by ratepayers on what they considered to be private property.

Sometimes ratepayers decided to ask the Council to take over the streets when such compulsory orders for works were made, as then they would only have to pay half the costs rather than the full costs of such works.

For instance, plans and specifications for forming and draining Belmont Avenue were developed and approved by the Local Board of Health on 5 July 1887 due to the existence of a nuisance.



Extract, MMBW detail plan 1592, 1904

On 19 July 1887 Council decided that ratepayers must form and drain the street within 30 days. Showing this trend for ratepayers of private streets to then request that the street be taken over so they would only pay half the costs of forming and draining, the ratepayers of Belmont Avenue asked the Council to take over the street on 2 August 1887. The Council agreed to this on the same date and tenders were called for the work to be done.

© Andrew Frost, 2013.

7 1. Maud and Effey Streets are now called Swinton Avenue

NOOKS, CRANNIES AND A PET MAGPIE

18 John Street, Kew

'Glastonbury', which has occupied the north-east corner of John and Alfred Streets for 95 years has recently been sold.

Designed for Ernest and Amy Robinson and their family by the architect John Stevens Gawler in 1917 on land that was once part of the Dumaresq estate, the house remained in their family for 55 years.

A second family purchased it in 1972 and lived there happily for a further 40 years, during which time some additions were made to the rear of the house. Apart from that, little has changed in all that time.

I visited there frequently as a child in the 1940s and clearly remember the warmth of its paneled walls and its quirky nooks and crannies and inventive arts and crafts details.

Aunt Amy made attractive floor rugs from hessian and strips of coloured cloth. The fabric was looped through the hessian with a special hook to form the design. She designed garments for the family's sportswear business and decorated the cakes for her family's weddings and collected pewter and old English furniture.

Amy Elizabeth, as she was known, belonged to many charitable organisations, and worked for them all - the Country Women's Association, Red Cross, Comforts Fund, the St. George's Hospital Building Appeal.

During the dark days of the war, the house became a centre for the making of camouflage nets and papier-mache bowls for field dressings. It was always a happy home with people coming and going, keen to take part in all of these activities and always made to feel welcome, until when on one dark wet night as she was crossing Cotham Road, a taxi knocked her down.

The back garden still contains the laundry and garage as outbuildings, although the garden is somewhat reduced due to extensions to the house. There used to be a large grassed area with fruit trees along the side fences where beautiful juicy apples grew, and a fish pond and aviary and a solidly constructed swing in the centre of the lawn area, which was strong enough to accommodate swingers of all ages.

There was also a fenced vegetable garden where the pet magpie reigned. At the sound of the latch on the side gate, he would call out, "Are you there, Mrs. Robbie?" in imitation of the tradesmen who would call at that time.

DIONE MCINTYRE



THE SKINNY DOG HOTEL

Of the eight hotels established in Kew, The Skinny Dog Hotel, known for most of its existence as the Greyhound Hotel, was the seventh to be built between 1873 and 1874. It is, together with the Hotel Kew (Clifton Hotel) and the Harp of Erin, one of three survivors.

The updating of the name of the hotel to the Skinny Dog carried on a connection, perhaps unknowingly, to the hotel's earliest period, when its first licensee was a successful greyhound breeder and the hotel hosted regular meetings of coursing clubs.

In 1873, when James Bennett first applied for a license for a hotel to be named the 'Greyhound', his application was opposed, however, after much deliberation the Licensing Court supported his application. Those opposing the application were unnamed in the press reports of the day. Bennett was to die in 1881, leaving a wife, five children, and many greyhounds. The latter presumably roamed the extensive yards of the hotel, which extended to Brougham Street. Kew Lass, Kew Maid, Kew Belle, Kew Lad, Kew Lily (winner of the Oaks), and Kew Lady as well as assorted puppies were advertised for auction in Kirk's Bazaar. Mrs. Bennett was to manage the hotel for some months before selling the license to William Ambler.

The licensee between 1886 and 1891 was John Dougherty. In 1889, Dougherty was required to apply for a renewal of his license at the Metropolitan Licensing Court. The long report on the hearing is revealing about contemporary moral values, the relationships between citizens, and the supportive male networks that operated within a community such as Kew.

Inspector Daly, who opposed Dougherty's application, argued that he was not a fit and proper person to hold a license as he was not of sober habits and possessed a violent temper. He also noted that Dougherty had previously been convicted five times. The defence, while conceding prior convictions, argued that these instances of drunk and disorderly conduct, the use of insulting words, Sunday trading, and abusive language did not constitute 'drunken habits' or a violent temper. During the hearing, a crucial piece of the evidence cited by the objectors related to events occurring on 25 May when Constable Bird heard Mrs. Dougherty screaming. She reportedly ran from the hotel, from her husband, who was drunk and abusing her, and fled to the Mayor's house with her children.

Against the Inspector's evidence and the constable's testimony was to be weighed the combined weight of the dignitaries of Kew and Hawthorn. Dr. Watkins, the Superintendent of the Kew Asylum, stated that he had never known the applicant 'worse for liquor'.

ROBERT BAKER



Dr. Wilson, a magistrate, testified that Dougherty was 'a very respectable man, who kept his house in very good order'. The notion of 'house' seems nicely ambiguous to us now. Was it intentionally so then? Councillor Gray, an ex-mayor, concurred about Dougherty's respectability. The nail in the objector's coffin must have been the testimony of Councillor Kellett, mayor of Kew. It was to his protection that Mrs. Dougherty and her children had fled, and now he would testify that he too had never seen Dougherty under the influence. He could not account for why Mrs. Dougherty had arrived on his doorstep, but 'he presumed it was because he was mayor at the time'.



**Cr. H de C.
Kellett, Mayor
1888-89**

City of
Boroondara

While John Dougherty kept his license, it was by all accounts soon to pass to others. Perhaps a price still had to be paid.

THE SKINNY DOG HOTEL (CONT.)

The first twenty years of the twentieth century seem to have been a remarkably stable period as far as four of the main hotels in Kew were concerned. Advertisements for The Greyhound, the Council Hotel, The Prospect Hill Hotel and the Kew Hotel appear with great regularity in the local and daily newspapers. During this period, until her death in 1916, Mrs. Elizabeth Hodges was the 'proprietress', rather than the licensee or publican of the Greyhound. Like the other four hotels, she offered a billiard room as well as the 'leading brands of ales, wines and spirits'. Her obituary in the *Box Hill Reporter* noted that she had been a businesswoman in Kew for 17 years. Her daughters were reported to be continuing the management of the hotel.

The hotel from its earliest days was located on an irregular block of land, as it is now. In 1901 the freehold of the hotel was put up for sale in two lots. Lot 1 included the 11-room hotel with a frontage to High Street of 56ft and a depth of 108ft. Lot 1 also included a 'shop and one room adjoining'. Lot 2 included 'land' with a frontage to Brougham Street of 150ft; land irregular. The advertisement happily noted that the hotel was 'situate on the tram route, with constant vehicular and passing traffic. The property has a large family trade, and is situate in the centre of a dense population'. In 1928, when the hotel was auctioned for a third time, it was to be sold as one lot. While the width of the frontage remained the same, the depth of the block was conveniently described as '146ft 9 inches or Thereabouts'. The large yards of the hotel in 1928 were said to contain stables, garage, etc.

While the upper part of the façade of the hotel remains remarkably intact, the Greyhound has been modified a number of times. The first occasion oddly was seven years after it opened. There is a record of a proposal in 1928, which progressed as far as the submission of plans for the redevelopment of the ground floor. The plans were drawn up by the architect R. H. McIntyre, and were to cost £1,100. Other changes to the fabric of the hotel have occurred since then, sometimes resulting from accidents such as when a bus crashed into the front of the hotel in 1935.

The National Library of Australia's Trove website includes digitised newspapers dating from the 1800s to the mid-1950s. Many of these include additional stories that illuminate the lives of the publicans and patrons of the Greyhound Hotel (aka Skinny Dog Hotel).

The information in the public domain about the Greyhound Hotel ends in 1955. If you have additional information about the hotel in the second half of the twentieth century, you can contact the author at the following email address: rbkr@tpg.com.au.

ROSEMARY LOUISE SMART OAM

A member of the Society for over 50 years and current member of the Management Committee, Rosemary, this Australia Day, was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for her SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY THROUGH LOCAL AND HISTORICAL ORGANISATIONS.

After leaving Warwick, a private school in Armadale, Rosemary decided to pursue her love of dance and ballet. She attended classes at Jenny Brennan's studio and then the Borovansky School. She was then invited to become a member of the Corps de Ballet of the Ballet Rambert.

This was cut short, however, as she decided to accept the marriage proposal of the young Malcolm Smart, architect. They were married in London and returned to Australia to together begin a family life.

Rosemary's service to the community began soon after the birth of their fourth child when, after receiving her first motor car, she placed her baby's basket on the rear seat and commenced her 48 year service record of delivering meals-on-wheels.

They lived at 'Turinville' from 1952, home of Malcolm's great-grandfather, Archibald Smart, and one of Kew's earliest and most important old homes, and raised three sons and a daughter.

During the time that her daughter was attending Ruyton, she joined a group of mothers, who had formed a society to raise funds for underprivileged and handicapped children. The group organised many dances and dinners for which they catered themselves. Rosemary continued to work with this group long after her daughter had left the school.

As the family grew, Rosemary took dancing and movement classes for the YWCA, held classes for the residents of Kew Cottages, continued delivering meals-on-wheels and became a member of the National Trust Portable Iron Houses Team in South Melbourne.

Rosemary has remained an active member of our Society for many years. She has contributed to the development of all of our historical displays, particularly in the School's Day activities and Kew Court House fundraising performances, and regularly attends all of our meetings.

We congratulate Rosemary on an award well deserved.

DIONE, DOROTHY AND RAE

KEWRIOSITY

I first read a copy of *Kewriosity* travelling to work one morning some thirty years ago on the No 48 tram. It was the brainchild of a number of groups in Kew in the late 1970s including the Kew FACS Committee, the Citizens Advice Bureau, the Recreation Council, the Uniting Church of Kew, the School Holiday Programs group and the Kew Council.

There was a desire at the time for a community newsheet that would give the residents a better way of knowing what was happening in Kew and sharing this news with others.

The first issue of *Kewriosity* came out in June 1979 and the editor was Joy Adamson. Thereafter it came out at the end of each month with a diary of the next month's events in Kew.

It was an interesting publication and one could always get a copy from either the long since gone 'Copy Shop' in Walpole Street, or at the Kew Municipal Offices in Charles Street. It was financed through joint grants from the Kew Council and the Department of Community Welfare Services.

Both shared the view that a community newsheet was an innovative way of enabling residents to know about the activities that were happening in Kew.

I first learned about the Kew Historical Society after reading an article in the July 1983 issue of *Kewriosity* written by Thea Sartori, who was President of the Society from 1984–1985 and again from 1987 to 1988. In the article, she reported on an escorted tour that members of the Society had enjoyed, when the artist, Louis Kahan, showed members the ten windows that he had created for the Synagogue in Malmsbury Street.

In the article, Thea described how as they entered the temple the sun came out, and the windows in the west wall glowed with colour which streamed across the building, the eye drawn first to a hand raised in golden blessing, the hand of God when he blessed on the sixth day the world he had created.



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Bet Nachman Synagogue of Kew

She went on in her article to explain how the seven days of creation were shown in an imaginative and varied form, how the creation of light, the firmament divided from the waters under and over the earth were symbolized in brilliance of colour and richness of design.

As they studied the fourth day, sun, moon and stars, and the fifth, the creation of living things filled the window with their multiplicity of forms, Mr. Kahan explained to the assembled group the constrictions which this form imposed on the artist. Each piece of glass was chosen individually and joined with lead to its neighbour. Some of the windows contained as many as fifty different colours, and he said though a full size cartoon was drawn of the window, the artist never saw the full effect until the window was in place and the light fell through it.

In the case of these windows, the artist continued, an added difficulty that he encountered was that he had had to work within the existing window framework, of nine panels divided by three heavier uprights which had had to be considered in relation to the design, so that they did not dominate the total effect.

The Society members then moved upstairs for a closer look at the technique and detail of these splendid windows. The hand in the blessing held within it many living things shaped by the glass pieces, Adam and Eve in the upraised fingers, a lizard in the thumb, a deer leaping in the palm.

The members were moved by the variations of tone and texture they saw, which gave the window its lively glow, and the play of the artist's fancy in the almost kept secret of the beasts it contained.

The seventh window, the day of rest, was a peaceful abstract in which seven points were seven days, and the shape of the initial letter of the Sabbath was to be seen in blue.

The three remaining windows represented the Tree of Life – Happiness, the Flood – Promise, and the Tower of Babel – Faith.

Mr. Kahan explained that everyone could make their own interpretation, ambiguity was a part of art. If it gave a good feeling, it had succeeded. Significantly, each design had a circular movement, the circle of perfection.

The windows had been donated to the Synagogue by the Smorgon family, in memory of their son. Louis Kahan had donated his time, his art and his craftsman's skill to this wonderful treasure of Kew. He explained at the time to the members then present that painting in glass was painting with light.

ALEX WILSON OAM

Reprinted with the permission of Thea Sartori, *Kewriosity*, Vol.4: No.11, July 1983.

Editor: The Kew Hebrew Congregation website has a page dedicated to the stained glass windows.
www.khc.org.au

2013 CALENDAR

Kew Historical Society meets monthly in the Phyllis Hore Room of the Kew Library on the second Wednesday of each month except January unless otherwise announced.

16–24 March 2013	Exhibition: Dancing in Kew
20 March 2013	Em. Professor G. Davison – The McIntyre Lecture*
10 April 2013	Joe Toscano - The Toscanos
8 May 2013	Edwina Lampitt – The Tale of the Enterprise
12 June 2013	Em. Professor Peter McIntyre – Architecture of Boroondara

* **THE 2013 McINTYRE LECTURE**
Professor Emeritus Graeme Davison

"All that is essential to happiness:
the Villa Ideal and the first
Australian suburbs"

Bookings are essential.

The Kew Court House,
188 High Street, Kew,
Wednesday 20th March 2013,
7:30 for 8:00PM.

Printing: Courtesy of Andrew McIntosh MLA, Member for Kew

www.andrewmcintoshmp.com

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